BULLETIN
OF THE WORLD COUNCIL
OF PEACE

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Dear Friends,

There have been a great number and variety of activities around disarmament and other problems these last few weeks. In addition several national committees and movements have drawn up bold and original plans for immediate and future work. We will report about them in future Information Letters. Although there has been a considerable improvement in the amount of information we have been receiving we would once again ask you to let us know all your activities so that we can make them known as speedily as possible.

DISARMAMENT

Professor Bernal, Chairman of the Presidential Committee of the World Council of Peace, published a statement in which he points out that "For ten years the World Council of Peace has been campaigning for general and controlled disarmament" and calls on all peace-loving people "in the decisive months to come to work with all our strength to secure an agreement on disarmament."

/Australia/ The Australian-New Zealand Congress for Disarmament and International Cooperation was opened on 8 November. About 5,000 people took part in the opening and several thousand marched through the streets of Melbourne accompanied by trucks filled with children.

Well-known English novelist J.B. Priestley said that he thought the political atmosphere in some quarters of Australia was a little out of date. He was referring to the pressure and intrigue carried out against various personalities to try to prevent them taking part in the Congress. Another speaker criticised the Primate of Australia for having advised Anglicans to boycott this great demonstration.

/Finland/ The campaign for the 2nd Appeal from Stockholm is going on apace. More than 700 meetings have already been organised by trade union, women's, political, and sports organisations, by the Union of Christian Workers, etc.

The Soviet Government's proposals on general disarmament have been warmly welcomed in Finland and several personalities important in public life have issued statements expressing their viewpoints. They include Mr. Vieno Sukselainen, the Prime Minister, Mr. Reino Oittinen, former Governmental minister, Pastor Alvar Sundell, Mrs. Herta Kuusinen, Chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the Popular-Democratic Party, etc.

/ U.S.S.R. / A meeting of the Presidential Committee of the Soviet Peace Council was held on 28 October, attended by representatives of broad sections of Soviet public opinion.

The meeting discussed the campaign going on in the USSR for total, all-round disarmament, a summit conference and elimination of the cold war.

The Soviet Peace Committee appealed to the Soviet people to do all they can to help rally the peace-loving people of all countries in this great campaign to ensure peace between the peoples.

/ United States / Dr. Holland Roberts, member of the Bureau of the W.C.P., made a lecture tour of the West Coast to speak about peace problems. While in Oregon, he addressed the 3rd Annual Peace Workshop sponsored by a Methodist group.

/ Canada / The Executive of the Canadian Peace Congress is planning to insert advertisements in the local press. About 15 advertisements on disarmament will be published simultaneously.

/ Great Britain / The Youth Peace Committee, associated with the British Peace Committee, plans a torchlight procession through the centre of London on 23 November. The demonstration will feature the main demands of young people and press the British Government to act to abolish nuclear weapons at the Summit Conference.

The Youth Peace Campaign is to hold a public meeting in the centre of London on 26 November and it is expected that various youth organisations will participate.

/ Bulgaria / On 2 November Mr. Gueorgui Pirinsky, Vice-President of the National Peace Committee and Bureau member of the WCP, spoke on Sofia Radio about Mr. Khrushchov's report on the international situation and Soviet foreign policy.

The Bureau of the Bulgarian Peace Committee has met to discuss the tasks facing the Bulgarian Peace Movement as a result of documents adopted at the last meeting of the WCP Presidential Committee.

/ Poland / In a communique issued at the end of the extended Executive meeting of the Christian Peace Council in Warsaw, participants opposed the use of atomic weapons and welcomed with gratitude the disarmament proposals made by the leader of the Soviet Government Mr. N. Khrushchov and by Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, British Minister for Foreign Affairs A working committee was chaired by Professor J.L. Hromadka (Czechoslovakia), member of the World Council of Peace.

/ German Federal Republic / Several hundred inhabitants of the town of Giessen took part in a recent meeting of the Hesse Committee against Nuclear Death to protest against arming the Bundeswehr with nuclear weapons.

Resolutions calling for the annulment of this decision

and for the establishment of official relations with the German Democratic Republic were addressed to Parliament. All those who spoke appealed to the people to carry out a vigorous struggle against atomic armament.

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The pacifist organisation "Frankischer Kreis" adopted a statement drawing attention to the fact that the Federal Government had decided to speed up arming the Bundeswehr despite the general trend for a relaxation of international tension. After welcoming the results of Mr. Khrushchov's trip to the United States and the Soviet disarmament proposals, the statement calls on the BonnGovernment to change its foreign policy to support the holding of a Summit Conference, appeals to Bundestag deputies to work for international discussions on disarmament and the creation of zones of limited armaments in Central Europe. The statement also refers to diplomatic relations with East European countries and German unification.

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During the foreign policy debate in the Bundestag which began on 5 November several personalities addressed the Chairman to demand that Germany takes the initiative of stopping immediately the rearmament of the Bundeswehr, and particularly equipping it with armaments.

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The weekly, Deutsche Woche, has announced that a meeting was recently held in Munich to protest against the decision that men born in 1922 are to be called up for military training next year. The meeting was organised by opponents of military service and more than 1,500 people took part, including many young people born in 1939.

15,000 37-year olds have set up an association in Aschaffenburg called "Union of Federal German Citizens who have done War Service". Writer Hans Matjak-Arnim was elected chairman. The association opposes the call-up for military service of all age-groups mobilised in the second world war. The chairman stated: "There is talk going on in Bonn about the mortal enemy - the Soviet Union - just as in his time Hitler talked about the hereditary enemy - France."

/ German Democratic Republic / The trade union committee of Treuenbritzen Hospital adopted a resolution protesting against nuclear tests in the Sahara and proposing that the World Council of Peace has discussions with the World Federation of Trade Unions, the Women's International Democratic Federation, the World Federation of Democratic Youth and other international organisations on measures to take against the atomic hazards threatening mankind.

/ Hungary / On his return from the recent Prague meeting of the Christian Peace Conference, Working Group, Protestant Bishop Istvan Szamosközi stated: "The Christian Peace Movement has decided to work for general disarmament, cessation of nuclear tests and for a policy of peaceful coexistence."

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/ W.I.D.F. / The Women's International Democratic Federation has decided to organise an extensive campaign for total, all-round disarmament and has published an appeal for an international assembly of women to be held from 10-12 December near Göteborg (Sweden). The Conference will be to have joint discussions on what disarmament would mean for the women of the different countries and how they can help to bring it about.

L A O S

/ People's Republic of China / Mr. Kuo Mo-jo, Chairman of the Chinese Peace Committee, said in a statement that the Chinese people strongly oppose the trial of Prince Souphanouvong and the seven other leaders of the Neo Lao Haksat Party.

The Chinese people, he went on to say, "unreservedly support the Neo Lao Haksat Party's demand for the immediate release of Prince Souphanouving and other patriotic leaders; they also support the Neo Lao Haksat Party's appeal to end the civil war; they resolutely support the just struggle waged by the people of Laos for peace, independence and democracy."

/ Bulgaria / On behalf of millions of peace workers, the National Peace Committee has sent a telegram to the UN energetically protesting against the trial of leaders of the progressive democratic movement in Laos.

The Central Council of Trade Unions has also sent a protest telegram to the UN and one to the Chairman of the Laotian Council of Ministers.

/ France / Certain French newspapers have published a protest made by French university figures against the proceedings carried out against Prince Souphanouvong and demanding that they be stopped immediately.

/ Soviet Union / The Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, expressing the solidarity of the Soviet people, has issued a declaration condemning the Sananikone Governments' criminal actions and demanding, together with all men of goodwill, application of the Geneva and Vientiane agreements, cessation of the savage arbitrary measures taken against Prince Souphanouvong and other Laotian patriots and the establishment of peace in Indochina.

/ Great Britain / The General Council of the British Peace Committee, meeting in London on 7 and 8 November, adopted a resolution deploring the imprisonment of Prince Souphanouvong and other Laotian leaders and protesting against their impending trial.

/ India / The All India Peace Council has protested against the Laotian Government's decision to bring to trial Prince Souphanouving and other Neo Lao Haksat Party leaders.

In a statement given to the press in New Delhi, Mr. Romesh Chandra, General Secretary of the All India Peace Council, accuses